

the only superhero who might still be standing.
Don't piss me off,

you need me --

like in high school, you needed Spacey Jim to hang a moon
at the All-School Easter Assembly, then stand there
beaming

while you ran, leaving him to the authorities.

Sure I'm all talk.

What else can anybody do these hamstrung days?

Pull your head out of your ass and thank me, twit.

I'm Curmudgeon-Man; I speak for you.

-- Charles Webb

Los Angeles CA

TWELVE POSTULATES REGARDING ONE'S HEAD, ART AND SCIENCE

i.

What one is is really what's within one's head --
physical appearance, dress and voice are no gauge
of what's there.

ii.

What's within one's head has had to be learned --
very little inherited or instinctive knowledge comes
with birth. Instinct (or its equivalent) appears
to be a common denominator for all in the species and
does not differentiate one individual from another.

iii.

It's difficult for a conscious human not to learn
a new thing each day. Yet something has to be lost
each day -- otherwise (like it or not) a brain will
fill to capacity. One must consciously try for
selective input and selective forgetting.

iv.

What is learned and retained is probably the only asset
one can acquire in life that is truly owned and which
cannot be taken away (except by tissue death).

v.

In this time (as in past times) some people seem to exist

only to fill one's head with things for their benefit or for their cause -- consider the motivations of the ad-men, the missionaries, the politicians of every stripe. Propaganda is the name of their game -- avoid these people!

vi.

Early as possible in life, one must decide to learn actively rather than passively -- active learning means personal selection of what one adds to one's brain; passive learning means filling the brain depending on the ratio of truth and propaganda laid out before one. Active learning requires work.

vii.

Initially, active learning can be facilitated by good teachers -- but eventually one must shift to personal discovery and personal testing for what one can accept as real and true in life.

viii.

When one discovers something true, one functions as a scientist -- scientists are always seeking the truth, trying to recognize it when they have it in their hands, doubting it, then testing it by every independent means to check that it continues to be true.

ix.

When one begins to link many things real and true, then one begins to create -- human creations function (to the degree that they function) on relationships. A creation made from things real and true does not itself have to be real and true. Both artists and scientists create.

x.

What one creates, one tends to believe in. This can be both a strength and a weakness for artist/scientist creators.

xi.

If others believe in that creation, then what one has created can qualify as good art and good science.

xii.

Art initially based on what is real and true can have a life of its own and can survive the death of its creator. So also for science. To the extent that art and science

exist, they are virtually synonymous -- they give meaning to their creators' lives. They allow one to share what's within one's head.

-- M. K. Book

Highland Park NJ

TALKING TO A PART OF MY MAILBOX ...

boy, don't come around here telling me you
can't cut it, that
they're pitching you low and inside, that
they are co-ercing against you,
all you want is a chance but they won't
give you a
chance.

boy, the problem is that you're not doing
what you want to do, or
if you're doing what you want to do, you're
just not doing it
well.

boy, I agree:
there's not much opportunity, and there are
some at the top who are
not doing it much better than you
are
but
you're wasting energy haranguing and
bitching.

boy, I'm not advising, just suggesting that
instead of sending your poems to me
along with your ranting letters of
complaint
you should enter the
arena --
send your work to the editors and
publishers; it will
buck up your backbone and your
versatility.

boy, I wish to thank you for the
praise of some of my
published works
but that
has nothing to do with